

Mozambique Political Process Bulletin

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**Nacala round 2
Pro-Simango list for Beira assembly
Transparency still insufficient, says IESE
CNE member dies**

Nacala round 2: intense campaign and arrests

Intense campaigning marks Mozambique's first ever second-round election, as Nacala mayor Manuel dos Santos fights to retain his post and be Renamo's only mayor. Voting takes place Wednesday 11 February and the official campaign is from 31 January to 8 February.

In the 19 November first round, Frelimo candidate Chalé Ossufo gained 49.8% against 47.8% for dos Santos and 2.3% for two minor candidates. As no candidate gained more than half the vote, a second round was necessary between the two highest scoring candidates. Frelimo won a narrow majority in the assembly with 49.1% of the vote against 48.6% for Renamo.

In this intense atmosphere, Chalé promises to improve the water supply while dos Santos promises to build factories and create more jobs.

Side-by-side rallies on Saturday led to punch-ups between young Frelimo and Renamo supporters. Police fired in the air to disperse supporters of both sides. Nineteen people were injured, four seriously, when a lorry overloaded with Frelimo supporters overturned when it was trying to avoid a break in the road caused by the serious erosion damaging the city.

Seven Renamo members, including two members of the national parliament, were arrested Monday. The MPs were released two days later. The incident occurred during a Renamo election parade, during which the police fired into the air. Renamo says its members were arrested when they objected to the police firing. The police say they fired into the air because they came under attack by Renamo supporters.

Abuse of state resources continues. Posters for both candidates, although mostly Frelimo, continue to be put up on public buildings, such as the Mocone primary school, the general hospital, and even the main court.

Renamo is not even attempting to hide its use of municipal vehicles. Frelimo, on the other hand, has mobilised large numbers of cars from provincial directorates and is covering the government logos and car registration numbers with candidate's posters.

Pro-Simango list for Beira assembly

Unexpectedly, and without explanation, the list of Renamo candidates elected to the Beira municipal assembly is the original list submitted by Renamo, and not the changed list accepted by the National Elections Commission (CNE). No announcement was made, and the daily *Canal de Moçambique*, which has followed the issue closely, was the first to notice that the list approved by the Constitutional Council was not the one posted by the CNE before the election.

The change is important, because the initial list was selected before Daviz Simango was dropped by Renamo President Afonso Dhlakama as candidate. Thus the list is generally sympathetic to him. At the last minute, Dhlakama selected Manuel Pereira to be candidate for mayor of Beira and present mayor Simango decided to stand as an independent. Renamo then submitted a new list of candidates for assembly which supported Pereira and not Simango.

In the election, Simango won 62% of the vote compared to a derisory 3% for Pereira.

The Simango campaign had claimed that the original pro-Simango list was approved by the CNE on 8 October, and that the change in lists was illegal. Two lists of Renamo assembly candidates were circulating in Beira, which the *Bulletin* saw, and they were both signed by CNE President Joao Leopoldo da Costa. The second anti-Simango list was the one posted as official at the CNE headquarters in Maputo. The problem was that the list of candidates approved by CNE on 8 October was never published by the CNE on its website or in *Boletim de Republica*. So the only formal record was the sheets of paper posted outside the CNE office in Maputo. The issue was discussed in Local Election *Bulletin* 8 on 19 November 2008

Thus it came as a complete surprise that the initial pro-Simango list was listed by the Constitutional Council as having been elected. There has been no explanation by the CNE or the Constitutional Council, but it is a clear acknowledgement that the substitution of the original list by the CNE was improper.

Transparency still insufficient, says IESE

Transparency of the electoral process has improved, but it is still insufficient warns the respected electoral scholar Luís de Brito. He is research director of the Institute for Social and Economic Studies (Instituto de Estudos Sociais e Económicos) in Maputo. In the most recent issue of the IESE bulletin *IDeIAS*, de Brito says that on transparency, "progress has been registered in relation to previous electoral processes, but it is still insufficient to guarantee the exemplary conduct of the elections."

The main purpose of the bulletin is to discuss invalid votes (nulos) and their requalification by the National Elections Commission. In general, more votes considered invalid by polling stations are accepted for Renamo than Frelimo, which de Brito sees as bias at the polling station level. "The data available related to requalification of invalid votes by the CNE shows that there is a clear partiality by polling station staff in the classification of votes, to the detriment of Renamo."

IDeIAS nº8 is on http://www.iese.ac.mz/lib/publication/outras/ideias/Ideias_8.pdf

CNE member dies

A member of the National Elections Commission (CNE), Amandio de Sousa, was found dead in his hotel room in Durban, South Africa, on 21 January. Sousa was deputy chair of the CNE's Commission on Election Organisation and Operations, and he was in Durban to oversee production of voting material for the second round in Nacala. Sousa was one of the two CNE members appointed by Renamo. He was a secondary school teacher and had been a member of the Beira Municipal Assembly between 1998 and 2003.

Investitures of mayor and assemblies

In the ten new municipalities, mayors and municipal assemblies were sworn in between 27 January and 4 February. For the 32 old municipalities – all except Nacala – the swearing in takes place between 4 and 14 February.

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